

1 11. (Amended) A combination drinking container and straw comprising:  
2 a container having an outer wall, a bottom, an open top, and at least one straw  
3 retaining member disposed in an outer surface of the outer wall;  
4 a lid for closing the top of the container, the lid having an aperture formed  
5 therethrough;  
6 a straw disposed in the at least one retaining member, the straw having a first  
7 end which extends into the container to terminate proximate the closed bottom thereof  
8 and a second end which extends upwardly from the container so that liquid may be  
9 sipped through from the container, wherein the configuration of the straw is defined  
10 by the configuration of the retaining member; and  
11 a loop formed by the straw proximate the container top such that, when said  
12 straw extends through said aperture, said loop hinges said lid onto said combination  
13 even when said lid is removed from said container.

[ Please amend claim 12 as follows: ]

1 12. (Amended) A combination drinking container and straw comprising:  
2 a container having an open top, a lid configured to fit on said container to  
3 close said open top, said lid including an aperture formed therethrough, and a straw, a  
4 first portion of which extends from said container and through said lid aperture and a  
5 second portion of which is attached to said container and terminates in a sipping end,  
6 wherein said straw functions as a hinge for said lid, retaining said lid when said lid is  
7 removed from said cup.

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